responsibility of fixing quality norms for food products rests with Prevention of Food Adulteration Act under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Increasing sugarcane price

1889. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of sugar has been increased recently whereas the price of sugarcane has not been increased proportionately; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's policy in his regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The open market price of sugar is influenced by market forces of demand and supply whereas the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane payableby sugar mills to sugarcane growers for each sugar season is fixed by the Government on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) having regard to factors like cost of production of sugarcane, return to the grower from alternative crops, etc. The Government's policy is to ensure availability of sugar at reasonable price to the consumers and to ensure to sugarcane growers remunerative minimum price for sugarcane.

Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal

1890. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority has taken any measures of security against the dangerously/chemically affected surroundings and campus soil of the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above chemically affected plant premises are open and accessible to the general public;

(d) if so, the action taken to protect the public from health hazards of the plant premises; and